

CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL

DATE: December 22, 2016

MANUAL: 1201 – Child Placement Services; II- Out of Home Family Services Agreement, IV- Placement Decision Making, VI-Permanency Planning, X-Record Keeping and Documentation
CHAPTER V: Jurisdiction in Child Welfare
CHAPTER VII: Child and Family Team Meetings
CHAPTER VIII: Protective Services; 1406-Administration & Staffing, 1408-Investigations and Family Assessments, 1409-Domestic Violence, 1410-Conflict of Interest, 1412-CPS In-Home Services, 1424-Case Record, 1426-Central Registry, 1427-Responsible Individuals List
CHAPTER IX: Drug-Endangered Children
CHAPTER X: The Juvenile Court and Child Welfare

CHANGE NO: 03-2016

TO: COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, MANAGERS, & SUPERVISORS
CHILD WELFARE SOCIAL WORKERS

RE: SAFETY PLANNING POLICY & USE OF TEMPORARY PARENTAL SAFETY AGREEMENTS INCLUDING TEMPORARY SAFETY PROVIDERS

EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 1, 2017

I. BACKGROUND | CHANGE INTENT

Effective January 1, 2017, safety planning policy regarding Safety Assessments (DSS-5231) and the use of Temporary Parental Safety Agreements shall be used for all Child Protective Services (CPS) Assessments.

Temporary Parental Safety Agreements are voluntary, short-term agreements made between a parent and a county child welfare agency when there is a safety threat to a child in his or her own home. The purpose of a Temporary Parental Safety Agreement is to develop a plan with the parent that imposes the lowest level of restriction, disruption, and intrusiveness possible while assuring a child's safety. In partnership with the parent, Temporary Parental Safety Agreements identify safety interventions, who is responsible and within what timeframe, to address each safety indicator identified on the safety assessment.

This change notice was initially released December 1, 2016. On December 12, 2016, the policy change was repealed to address concerns related to unintended negative impacts on the court system. This revised change notice removes any reference to time limitations on the use of safety providers. Other aspects of the policy are included in these policy updates.

II. SPECIFIC CHANGES

A Temporary Parental Safety Agreement requires the need to separate a child from the home and/or restrict a parent's access to a child, a Temporary Safety Provider should be identified by the parent. To assess the identified Temporary Safety Provider's ability to ensure safety, the Initial Provider Assessment was developed and will replace the existing Initial Kinship Care Assessment.

The December 1, 2016, Change Notice also included the requirement for court involvement when a Temporary Safety Provider was still needed to ensure the child's safety at the time of the case decision or during provision of In-Home Services. This December 22, 2016, Change Notice removes from the new policy this requirement for court involvement. With implementation of this new policy, all CPS assessments, family and investigative, will have a timeframe of 45 days for completion.

III. INSTRUCTIONS

The new safety planning policy can be found in Chapter VIII: Protective Services, Section 1408 – Investigations and Family Assessments, II. Child Protective Services (CPS) Assessment of Suspected Abuse, Neglect and Dependency, E. Conducting A CPS Assessment, 6. Safety Planning. This new policy is effective January 1, 2017. All other policy manual changes below were impacted by the new policy regarding safety planning, the use of Temporary Parental Safety Agreements, the new terminology “Temporary Safety Provider”, and the change of timeframe for investigative assessments to 45 days.

OBSOLETE	USE
<p>NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES</p> <p>CHILD WELFARE SERVICES MANUAL</p> <p>1201 – Child Placement Services, Number II, IV, VI, X</p> <p>CHAPTER V: Jurisdiction in Child Welfare</p> <p>CHAPTER VI: Child and Family Team Meetings</p> <p>CHAPTER VIII: Protective Services: 1406 – Administration & Staffing, 1408 – Investigations and Family Assessments, 1409 – Domestic Violence, 1410 – Conflict of Interest, 1412 – CPS In-Home Services, 1424 – Case Record, 1426 – Central Registry, 1427 – Responsible Individuals List</p> <p>CHAPTER IX: Drug-Endangered Children</p> <p>CHAPTER X: The Juvenile Court and Child Welfare</p>	<p>NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES</p> <p>CHILD WELFARE SERVICES MANUAL</p> <p>UPDATED 1201 – Child Placement Services, Number II, IV, VI, X</p> <p>UPDATED CHAPTER V: Jurisdiction in Child Welfare</p> <p>UPDATED CHAPTER VII: Child and Family Team Meetings</p> <p>UPDATED CHAPTER VIII: Protective Services, SECTION 1406 – Administration & Staffing, 1408 – Investigations and Family Assessments, 1409 – Domestic Violence, 1410 – Conflict of Interest, 1412 – CPS In-Home Services, 1424 – Case Record, 1426 – Central Registry, 1427 – Responsible Individuals List</p> <p>UPDATED CHAPTER IX: Drug-Endangered Children</p> <p>UPDATED CHAPTER X: The Juvenile Court and Child Welfare</p>

Sincerely,



Kevin Kelley, Section Chief
Child Welfare Services